



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Department for Science, Innovation and
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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
MP Chair of Public Accounts Committee
Houses of Parliament
SW1A 0AA

18 November 2025

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

I am writing to update the committee on the following recommendations from the Use of AI in government report alongside our response to the recent Treasury Minute Progress report:

PAC recommendation 1b: Establish an approach for measuring the costs associated with addressing legacy technology, as well as the costs of failing to act, to increase transparency and improve decision making.

We have revised our implementation date for this recommendation from January 2026 to June 2026 due to the scale and complexity of the work requiring longer to agree the most sustainable model to collect and analyse the data required to meet this ask. As part of this work, DSIT will also define consistent metrics and methods to measure the ongoing costs of legacy systems as well the estimated cost of failing to remediate or to replace systems.

PAC recommendation 1c: Track funding allocated for remediation work and take action where progress is slow.

We have revised our implementation date from January 2026 to May 2026 to align with a wider programme of work between GDS and HMT to monitor to prevent the implementation of diversion of funding earmarked for cyber and legacy projects proposed at the spending review. Following spending review settlements, GDS worked with HMT to ringfence key cyber security and legacy programmes, and we are in the process of working closely with HMT to ensure that these programmes have outcome-based metrics to ensure accurate and useful reporting in line with broader spending review performance tracking of digital programmes.

The additional time for both recommendations will allow GDS to align with broader performance tracking across government and ensure that we take the time to fully agree models that are appropriate for the level of complexity within the legacy technology landscape. Furthermore, the launch of the *Roadmap for a modern digital government* codifies some of the key activities Government is undertaking to drive forward its adoption of AI to improve public services, and address systemic challenges such as legacy technology.

PAC recommendation 1d: Address the risks to AI adoption resulting from barriers to data-sharing and poor data quality.

PAC recommendation 6a: DSIT must ensure that the proposed Government Digital and AI Roadmap is underpinned by a clear implementation plan with: clear accountabilities at the centre, across government and the wider public sector; delivery milestones to drive

change and maintain momentum; metrics to track progress and spend over time, to identify whether further levers are needed to support implementation.

The Roadmap for Modern Digital Government will set out priority reforms to accelerate digital transformation across government. Designed as an iterative plan, it will be regularly updated to reflect shifting priorities while maintaining transparency and momentum. Each project within the roadmap will have a clear vision, defined milestones, and measurable progress indicators to ensure delivery remains aligned with the overall strategic vision. The roadmap will also outline DSIT's programme of work to remove barriers to data sharing, strengthen cross-government data management practices, and improve data quality, as well as including commitments on the next steps for the National Data Library. The National Data Library is an ambitious programme backed by over £100 million to responsibly unlock high-value public sector data. This will enable businesses, researchers and public servants to deliver better services, drive economic growth and support innovation. More information on the National Data Library will follow later this year.

The roadmap is now due to be published in December 2025. This allows the inclusion of fully costed, feasible and funded deliverables, aligning the roadmap directly with the outcomes of the Spending Review and departments' business planning. Additionally, the roadmap will now launch alongside a series of other key digital and data announcements, presenting a more coherent and impactful narrative for the government's digital agenda.

Yours sincerely,



Emran Mian
Permanent Secretary
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology